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for them. Professor Barthélemy brings out very clearly that the Catholic party in the long run, benefits from proportional representation; under this system, its majorities, while smaller, are far more stable. It was also hoped that proportional representation would prevent the formation of an anticlerical combination, as each party would have its own list of candidates. The "d'Hondt method," as the Belgian system is known, was especially designed to favor the largest party, i.e., the Catholic; election results have always given the latter more representation than it was strictly entitled to according to popular vote. Prof. Barthélemy, who at times appears in the role of Catholic apologist, makes great efforts to prove the contrary, but he is not quite successful. At present all the Belgian parties endorse proportional representation, because all have profited by it; although the Liberals and Socialists desire to amend the "d'Hondt method" in order to make it more fair. One great benefit of the new electoral system, according to Paul Hyman the Liberal leader, is that it has modified the actions of the extremists and has caused an easy flow of moderate opinion through all the parties." Just because the majority of the Catholic party is always small, its policies have tended towards conciliation. *Gouverner, c'est concilier*, has become its motto. As for the complexities of the system, they exist for the election officers only and not for the voters. The objections raised that proportionalism would produce sleeping sickness on the body politic by crystallizing representation, events have failed to justify; for Belgian politics are quite lively and almost every election has varied in its results. "Belgium," declares Professor Barthélemy, "has almost reached perfection in its organization of electoral machinery. Its scheme may serve as a model to all countries and particularly to France."

J. SALWYN SCHAPIRO.

Handbuch des Wohnungswesen und der Wohnungsfrage. By PROF. DR. RUD. EBERSTADT. (Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1910. Pp. 516.)

This is an important work to which the attention of American students of municipal government has, I believe, not yet been directed. Since the housing problem constitutes today one of the fundamental questions of municipal government, a general work of this character should commend itself to all students of political science; and since Germany has been a leader in this field of social and political activity

the value of such a work is apparent, providing, of course, it has been well done, and this can be said of this the second edition of Dr. Eberstadt's book. It is in fact more than a mere hand-book: it deals with the housing question in all of its general phases—past and present, but with special reference to Germany. Beginning with a historical introduction, the author traces the evolution of city-building through its ancient, medieval, and modern periods for the purpose of showing that the present problems are largely the result of inherited systems and theories wrongly applied to modern social conditions. Present municipal conditions are portrayed by an array of fact and statistics relating to population occupations, rents, land-values, taxes, capital, streets, etc., in their relation to the housing problem as applied to the various classes. The social and legal relations of the city and commune to the state and imperial governments receives due attention while the work of voluntary associations and private building societies is also briefly treated. About sixty pages are devoted to housing conditions in England and other states. A number of typical, recent, local and general building ordinances are given in an appendix, while comparative tables of statistics upon various phases of municipal activities, and numerous illustrations and plans, are interspersed throughout the work. A bibliography, following each chapter, and a good index, at the close, add much to its general usefulness as a work of reference.

KARL F. GEISER.

South America, Observations and Impressions. By JAMES BRYCE. (New York: the MacMillan Company, 1912. pp. xxiv, 589.)

South America of Today. By GEORGES CLEMENCEAU. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912. Pp. xii, 434.)

La Republica Argentina. By ADOLFO POSADA. (Madrid: Suarez, 1912. Pp. xi, 488.)

The American Mediterranean. By STEPHEN BONSAI. (New York: Moffat Yard and Company, 1912. Pp. xiv, 488.)

Mr. Bryce, in the South American observations and impressions which he has given to the world, dwells upon those things that meet the eye of the observant traveler; the things that engage his attention are the human material of South America, with all its varied racial attributes, the features of natural scenery, the economic resources of